

Image 1731

PATENT
CASE NAME/NO.: SP01-277



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: STEVEN B. DAWES, et al.

Serial No: 10/053,365

Art Group Unit: 1731

Filing Date: 10/26/2001

Examiner: Peter Chin

Title: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR
PULSED DOPING OR DRYING A
SOOT PREFORM

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

In the Office Action dated March 1, 2004, in the above-captioned application, the Examiner issued a Restriction Requirement identifying the following groups of claims as being drawn to potentially distinct inventions:

- Group I. Claims 1 - 56, drawn to a doping method, classified in class 65, subclass 397;
- Group II. Claims 57 - 106, drawn to a method of drying, classified in class 65, subclass 426; and
- Group III. Claims 107 - 131, drawn to an apparatus, classified in class 65, subclass 530.

The Examiner asserted that these inventions may be regarded as independent and distinct from one another for the following reasons:

Inventions I and II are unrelated in the instant case as they have different modes of operation, function and effect.

Inventions I, II and III are related as process and apparatus for its practice, and that in the instant case the apparatus can be used to practice a materially different process such as treating ceramic article or as evidenced by the materially different processes of Inventions I and II.

Applicants respectfully elect the invention of Group I, upon which claims 1 - 56 read, without traverse.

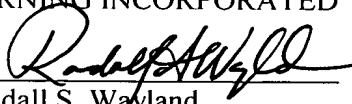
Applicants believe that no extension of time is necessary to make this Response timely. Should Applicants be in error, Applicants respectfully request the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Response timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Randall S. Wayland at 607-974-0463.

Respectfully submitted,

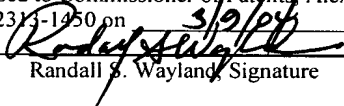
CORNING INCORPORATED

Date: 3/9/04


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R.

§ 1.8: I hereby certify that this paper and any papers referred to herein are being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service, as first class mail, postage prepaid, addressed to Commissioner of Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 3/9/04


Randall S. Wayland, Signature